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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YES Grants \$150,000 for Drug Abuse Prevention, Education

Seven organizations have been awarded a total of \$150,000 for drug abuse prevention and education programs from Youth Entitled to Success (YES) Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

“These grants bring the total awarded from the YES Fund to over \$1 million since it was established in 1997,” said CFSEMA President Craig J. Dutra. “We’re confident that the high-quality and innovative programs that have been funded will make a significant contribution to the ongoing problems of drug abuse and drug-related violence in our community.”

The following projects were awarded grants for the 2007 funding cycle:

- **Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford, \$20,000 for “Smart Moves,”** a national developed drug use prevention program targeting elementary and middle school age children.
- **Community Boating Center, \$25,000 for Summer Youth Sailing Program** to increase youth empowerment through successful hands-on experiences targeting at risk youth..
- **Dennison Memorial Center, \$20,000 in program support** to address and alleviate gang violence/membership linked to drug use and sales, for teen-specific after-school programs, and service to impoverished youth.
- **NorthStar Collaborative (3rd Eye Unlimited, PACE/YouthBuild, Treatment on Demand), \$25,000 for Achieving Respect Today (A.R.T.),** an art-based youth development program targeting high-risk New Bedford High School students and YouthBuild members.
- **PACE/YouthBuild, \$20,000 for a Wellness Program** that promotes youth empowerment through physical self-awareness and an increase of self-esteem
- **United Interfaith Action, \$25,000 toward program support** for community policing, street outreach worker, and focus on safe neighborhoods.

Yoga Kids, \$15,000 for “Seeds of Success,” a program designed to increase the resiliency of middle school-age children at DeValles, Hathaway, and Holy Family/Holy Name schools in New Bedford.

Project YES was established in 1997 by an anonymous donation of \$1 million to the CFSEMA to support existing awareness, prevention and education programs, the expansion of these programs, or the development of new programs serving Greater New Bedford. Programs eligible for YES grants include youth empowerment and leadership programs; prevention programs targeting “at risk” youth; community and/or faith-based programs that focus on safe neighborhoods and strengthening families; and anti-drug education and marketing campaigns in schools and community settings.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

To date, the Community Foundation has assets of more than \$16 million and has distributed over \$4.8 million from 84 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

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